May-June 1999 Volume 24, Number 4

A summary of recent news stories from the University of California, San Francisco

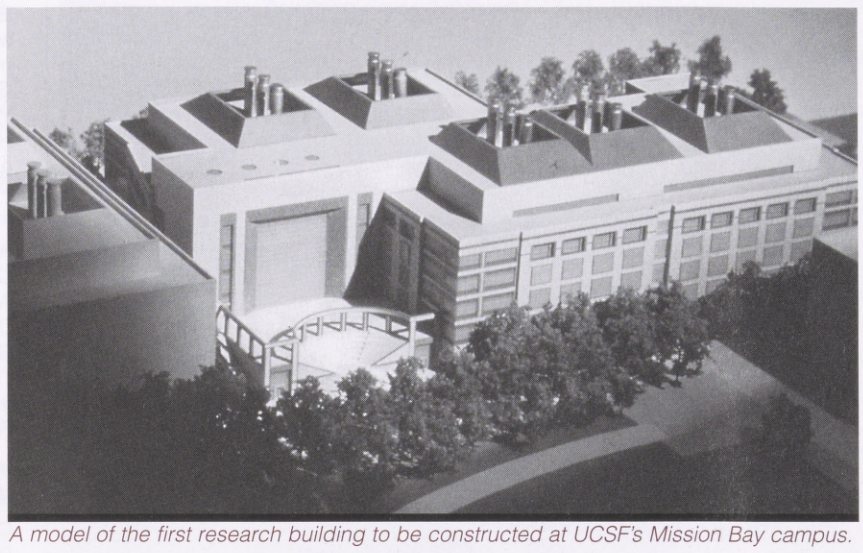
UCSF

To Our Neighbors

UCSF begins work at Mission Bay

UC Regents' approval of plans for the first research building at UCSF's Mission Bay campus last month clears the way to begin preliminary work on the site, located at 16th and Owens streets.

Construction of a new laboratory building is the first step in the creation of UCSF's 43-acre research and teaching campus at the center of the 303-acre Mission Bay development planned by Catellus Development Corporation.



A model of the first research building to be constructed at UCSF's Mission Bay campus.

Scientists and students working in the first research building will search for the fundamental discoveries essential for the conquest of diseases such as breast and prostate cancer, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, AIDS and spinal cord injuries, among others.

Known as Building 24, a designation that refers to the city lot number, the new facility will house structural and chemical biologists and molecular and cell biologists and those working in a center for advanced technology.

Plans for the building also call for a lecture hall, several smaller classrooms, an animal care facility to house rodents used in studies, support space, a small library and a book store. Designed by architects SMP-SHG and Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Partnership, the five-story research building also includes an amphitheater, an atrium that faces the campus' main open space known as the green and a courtyard café with indoor and outdoor seating. Completion is scheduled for 2002.

UCSF plans to build another laboratory research building and a campus community center during the first phase of development, projected for completion in 2003.

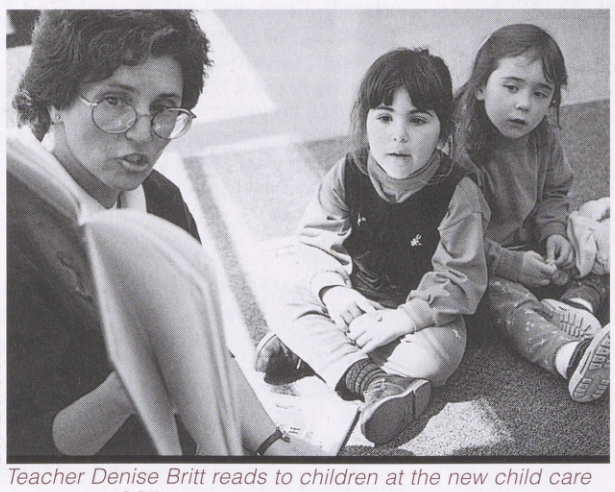
The draft master plan of the UCSF Mission Bay Campus, created by architects Machado and Silvetti Associates Inc. and Gordon H. Chong & Partners, is now available to the public by calling the Campus Planning Office at 476-2911.

To prepare for construction, Catellus will demolish the two existing buildings on Block 24 using bulldozers or similar machinery and will remove an abandoned underground tank from the site later this month.

Through the summer Catellus will relocate electric, gas, water and sewer services, primarily along Owens Street. Because a portion of Sixth Street is located on Block 24, Catellus will build a bypass street and utility corridor from Sixth to Owens street. The bypass will ensure uninterrupted service and access between the re-paved Owens Street and 16th Street once that portion of Sixth Street is closed. UCSF will work with Catellus and the City and County of San Francisco on the street closure, and will further notify the community and post special signs in the area in advance of the closure.

From August to October, an underground survey will determine whether any underground materials would interfere with construction. Equipment will be brought on site to remove the old materials as required. Groundbreaking is scheduled for late October.

For more construction-related information, call Construction Manager Daniel O'Shea of Turner Construction Company at 274-2913 or Ivy Chiao, UCSF project manager, at 476-8071.



Lisa Cisneros

Teacher Denise Britt reads to children at the new child care center at UCSF's Laurel Heights campus.

UCSF opens a new center for children

UCSF opened a new child care center at its Laurel Heights campus on March 1, marking the first time the University has offered infant care to faculty, staff and the community.

A partnership between UCSF and Marin Day Schools, a nonprofit organization that provides high-quality early childhood education and child care throughout the Bay Area, University Child Care Center serves children ages three months to five years. For more information about the center, call 775-2111.

Low-tech treatment saves lives

A simple adjustment in the way patients receive breathing assistance from a mechanical ventilator has been shown to cut deaths by 25 percent among victims of Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS), a devastating, often fatal lung condition that affects about 150,000 Americans annually.

A three-year, nationwide clinical trial of the new ventilator treatment has been so successful that it has been stopped ahead of schedule to alert critical care specialists of the life-saving results, says Michael Matthay, MD, professor of medicine and anesthesia at UCSF.

"This is the first major breakthrough in treatment of this devastating condition in 32 years," says Matthay, a senior scientist in UCSF's Cardiovascular Research Institute.

The successful treatment provided ARDS patients with smaller breaths of oxygen-rich air from a mechanical ventilator than had been conventionally used. Laboratory and pre-clinical animal studies had suggested that providing air in smaller volumes might protect the lung from injury.

"The reason these results are so exciting," Matthay says, "is that 40 to 60 percent of ARDS patients die, yet if we can save so many with this simple treatment, most of them can recover to lead perfectly normal lives."

ARDS often results from pneumonia or other life-threatening infections. ARDS patients become severely short of breath and need intensive care, usually with a mechanical ventilator.

UCSF joins pediatric brain tumor consortium

UCSF has been named one of nine academic research medical centers to form the Pediatric Brain Tumor Consortium sponsored by the National Cancer Institute (NCI).

The NCI will provide $2 million a year for five years to fund efforts intended to speed the development of innovative, technically challenging therapies for children with brain malignancies.

Neuro-oncologist Michael Prados is principal investigator of the consortium site at UCSF. He also leads the NCI's North American Brain Tumor Consortium, a group of eight centers that for six years has been exploring innovative therapies for adults with brain tumors.

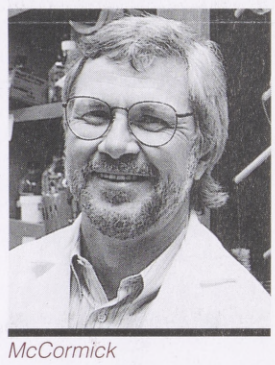
"The lesson we've learned from that experience is that we can bring together multidisciplinary teams in institutions of excellence with a common interest in developing strategies to cure brain tumors," Prados says.

Researchers gain insight into cancer biology

UCSF researchers may have determined how an experimental anti-cancer drug succeeds in killing cancer cells.

The finding offers a possible answer to recent questions about its mechanism of action and provides insight that could contribute to a deeper understanding of cancer biology.

The finding, reported by Frank McCormick, PhD, director of the UCSF Cancer Research Institute, could solidify and improve efforts to use the drug, ONYX-015, now used in phase II clinical trials. The finding could also lead to modified approaches for killing cancer cells with tumor-specific viruses.



McCormick

ONYX-015 has shown promising results in phase II clinical trials of patients with head and neck cancer and phase II trials have opened for patients with colon, pancreatic and ovarian cancer. Phase II trials are small-scale studies designed to determine effective dosage.

The ongoing research is funded by Onyx Pharmaceuticals Inc. McCormick founded the company and now serves on its scientific advisory board.

Teen smokers more at risk for cancer, study finds

Adolescent smokers appear to be more susceptible to long-term DNA damage associated with lung cancer than people who start smoking as adults, according to a UCSF-led study.

The study indicates that ex-smokers with lung cancer who began smoking in adolescence had higher levels of chemically altered DNA in their lungs and blood than ex-smokers who started smoking later in life.

"Our finding suggests that young smokers incur more severe or persistent DNA damage than adult smokers do," says John K. Wiencke, associate professor of epidemiology at UCSF.

All smokers develop some level of DNA damage, which is a known risk factor for lung cancer, and all people who quit experience some level of DNA repair. The current finding suggests that less repair — or less successful repair — occurs in people who smoked as teens.

More news for you
on the back page

What's happening

To Our Neighbors
May–June 1999
A quarterly calend
events at UC San

MAY

1 saturday

UCSF ORCHESTRA CHILDREN'S CONCERT: A special performance just for kids, 11 a.m., Millberry Union Gym, Parnassus. Fee: $20 per family.

2 sunday

CINCO DE MAYO HEALTH FAIR: UCSF schools of dentistry, nursing and medicine participate in diabetes, dental and women and children's health screenings at the annual Cinco de Mayo Health Fair, Civic Center Plaza. More information: 476-6547.

5 wednesday

BROWN BAG LECTURE: Paul A. Volberding, professor of medicine, co-director of Center for AIDS Research and director, UCSF Positive Health Program, SFGHMC, presents "Thinking AIDS: Evolving Needs In Care," 12:10 p.m., HSW 300, Parnassus. Sponsored by Public Service Programs. More information: 476-4394.

ANXIETY DISORDERS SCREENING: The department of psychiatry of UCSF Medical Center, part of UCSF Stanford Health Care, offers a free lecture on anxiety disorders and a free screening with a clinician, noon to 2 p.m., in the Langley Porter Psychiatric Institute auditorium, Parnassus. More information: 476-7406.

6 thursday

OLDER WOMEN'S HEALTH SUMMIT, RECEPTION: A conference to discuss health care financing and economics, health and wellness, and family issues including caregiving and receiving, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Miyako Hotel, 1625 Post St. At a reception titled "Celebrating Successes in Improving Older Women's Health," 5-7 p.m., four awards will be presented by the California Commission on the Status of Women for exceptional efforts on behalf of the older women of California.

CHANCELLOR'S CONCERT: Debra Berman, piano, presents Scarlatti's Sonata in G major, K 290, Shostakovich's Selections from 24 Preludes, Op. 34 and Chopin's Barcorolle, Op. 60, 12:15-12:45 p.m., Cole Hall, Parnassus.

7 friday

OLDER WOMEN'S HEALTH SUMMIT: See May 6 listing. 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

CELEBRATE DIVERSITY: The Student Activities Center presents "Unity: A Celebration of Our Diversity," 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Saunder's Court, Parnassus. Food, drinks and entertainment. More information: 664-8595.

BROWN BAG LECTURE: Ward G. Gypson, medical director, rehabilitation services, SFGHMC and associate clinical professor, orthopaedics, UCSF, presents "Acupuncture: 5000 Years in Sixty Minutes," 12:10-1 p.m., UCSF/Mount Zion, Herbst Hall, second floor. Sponsored by Public Services Programs. More information: 476-4394.

8 saturday

SELF-DEFENSE FOR WOMEN: Nina Haft, certified self-defense teacher, rape crisis counselor and Black Belt in Kung Fu, presents "Self-Defense for Mothers & Daughters," 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Millberry Union Fitness Center, Studio 1, Parnassus. Fees. To register, call 476-5222.

12 wednesday

BROWN BAG LECTURE: Lisa Kroon, assistant clinical professor, clinical pharmacy, School of Pharmacy, presents "New Therapies for Type 2 Diabetes," 12:10 p.m., HSW 300, Parnassus. Learn about the latest medication to control blood sugar levels in type 2 diabetes. Sponsored by Public Service Programs. Call 476-4394.

13 thursday

RESEARCH DAY: The Student Activity Center hosts a "Graduate Students Association Career and Research Day," Millberry Union Conference Center. Graduate students share their research with the UCSF community and host workshops throughout the day. More information: 476-2233.

CHANCELLOR'S CONCERT: City Winds presents Villalobos' Quintet in the form of Choros and Rockmaker's Kokopelli Dreams, 12:15-12:45 p.m., Cole Hall, Parnassus.

HERBAL MEDICINE LECTURE: Ellen Hughes, associate clinical professor, medicine and interim director, UCSF Osher Center for Integrative Medicine, presents "Herbal Medicine: Boom or Bust," reception at 4:45 p.m., program at 5:15 p.m., Commonwealth Club, 595 Market St. Sponsored by Public Service Programs. More information: 476-4394.

David Powers

Ellen Hughes will talk about herbal medicine.

HOSPITAL FUNDRAISER: The Hospitals Auxiliary of UCSF Stanford Health Care presents "Chefs for Kids," 6:30 p.m., Sur la Table, 77 Maiden Lane. Fees. Chefs present samples of their signature dishes to benefit patients of the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at UCSF. More information: 476-4906.

ASIAN PACIFIC PERFORMANCE: In recognition of Asian Pacific American Week, Empact! Presents a performance by comic Alec Mapa, who will perform his award-winning play, "I Remember Mapa," 7 p.m., Toland Hall, Parnassus. More information: 476-2675.

14 friday

HEALTH CARE CAREER DAY: UCSF Career Center hosts a career day, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Millberry Union gym, Parnassus. Bay Area employees meet UCSF students and share employment opportunities. More information: 502-2422.

15 saturday

FREE SKIN CANCER SCREENING: The UCSF department of dermatology, part of UCSF Stanford Health Care, hosts free skin cancer screenings, 9 a.m.-1p.m., UCSF/Mount Zion Medical Office Building, 1701 Divisadero St., third floor.

GOSPEL CHOIR SPRING CONCERT: UCSF Gospel Choir performs, 6:30 p.m., Alan Chapel, 915 Scotia Ave.

Chris T. Anderson

The Gospel Choir will perform May 15.

18 tuesday

BROWN BAG LECTURE: Nestor Karas, assistant professor, oral and maxillofacial surgery, UCSF, presents "Changing Facial Appearance," 12:10-1 p.m., UCSF/Mount Zion, Herbst Hall, second floor. Sponsored by Public Services Programs. More information: 476-4394.

19 wednesday

BLOOD DRIVE: Donate blood, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Mission Center Building, room 126. Tasty refreshments and great raffle prizes. More information: 476-6989.

BROWN BAG LECTURE: Ho Lynn, chair, The World Lin Yun Education Foundation, presents "Enhancing the Quality of Our Lives with Feng Shui," 12:10 p.m., HSW 300, Parnassus. Sponsored by Public Service programs. More information: 476-4394.

20 thursday

CHANCELLOR'S CONCERT: Julie Ann Giacobassi, oboe d'amore, Geraldine Walther, viola d'amore and Douglas Rioth, harp, present "Thow: Musica d'amore," 12:15-12:45 p.m., Cole Hall, Parnassus.

21 friday

ADDICTION CONFERENCE: The 32nd Anniversary Conference of the Haight Ashbury Free Clinics, titled "Critical Issues in Addiction," will be held through May 23, Laurel Heights Conference Center. Fees.

22 saturday

CHILDREN'S HEALTH FAIR: Lucile Packard Children's Health Services at UCSF hosts a health fair for children, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Millberry Union Conference Center, Parnassus. Event features more than 30 booths offering fun and educational activities to engage children to help them and their parents learn more about protecting kids' health. More information: 650/724-2763.

24 monday

CANCER CENTER SYMPOSIUM: The third annual conference focuses on prostate cancer, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Cole Hall, Parnassus. Experts discuss topics including immunotherapy, results of clinical trials of experimental treatments for prostate cancer, and measuring patient outcomes after diagnosis of prostate cancer. This forum is geared for a medical audience, but the public is welcome.

ACUPUNCTURE & CANCER: The Ida & Joseph Friend Cancer Resource Center hosts Beverly Burns, licensed acupuncturist, 5-7:30 p.m., UCSF/Mount Zion, Hellman Conference Room, first floor, 2200 Post St. Light snacks and refreshments will be provided. More information or to RSVP: 885-3693.

FILIPINO CULTURAL DAY: UCSF hosts an afternoon of native food and cultural performances, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Millberry Union Gym, Parnassus. Presented by United Filipino Employees Association and the Pilipinos at UCSF Student Organization.

26 wednesday

BROWN BAG LECTURE: Robert J. Margolin, associate clinical professor and medical director, Integrated Practice Group, UCSF, presents "Managing Your Way Through Managed Care," 12:10 p.m., HSW 300, Parnassus. Hear an insider's guide to managed care. Sponsored by Public Service Programs. More information: 476-4394.

ATTAIN FINANCIAL FREEDOM: The Center for Gender Equity hosts its "20th Annual Celebration," 6 p.m., Sir Francis Drake Hotel, Union Square. Event features Suze Orman, author of the No.1 bestseller "The Nine Steps to Financial Freedom" and the recently published "The Courage to Be Rich." Fees. More information: 502-7048.

27 thursday

CHANCELLOR'S CONCERT: Stephen Paulson, bassoon and Aglika Angelova, piano, perform Brahms' Sonata in F minor, 12:15-12:45 p.m., Cole Hall, Parnassus.

JUNE

1 tuesday

GRAND CELEBRATION CONCERT: The Piano Committee at UCSF, in conjunction with Empact! Presents, hosts the 1999 Annual Grand Celebration Recital Concert, at 6 p.m., in Cole Hall, Parnassus. As in the past eight years, the musical program is an open venue to give musicians — professional and amateur — in the UCSF community the opportunity to perform.

2 wednesday

BROWN BAG LECTURE: Christine Kennedy, assistant professor, family health, and director, Young Children's Health Project, School of Nursing, UCSF, presents "The TV Made Me Do It," 12:10 p.m., HSW 300, Parnassus. Learn about the influence of media on children's health behaviors, risk taking and injuries. Sponsored by Public Service Programs. More information: 476-4394.

3 thursday

ON REPRODUCTIVE SCIENCES: The Center for Gender Equity continues its "UCSF Women of Distinction Series" with Adele E. Clark, who will address "The Making of the American Reproductive Sciences: Controversy and Legitimacy," noon-1 p.m., N 217, Parnassus. Clark, an associate professor of sociology and history of health sciences and an author, tells the story of the search for reproductive knowledge. More information: 476-5222.

4 friday

BROWN BAG LECTURE: Susan Christy, consultant and trainer, presents "How to Work with Difficult People," 12:10-1 p.m., UCSF/Mount Zion, Herbst Hall, second floor. Learn how to understand problem people, defuse emotion, and move to constructive problem solving. Sponsored by Public Services Programs. More information: 476-4394.

9 wednesday

BLOOD DRIVE: Donate blood, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., S 118 (Chancellor's Conference Room), Parnassus. Tasty refreshments and great raffle prizes. More information: 476-6989.

BROWN BAG LECTURE: John D.B. Featherstone, professor and interim chair, restorative dentistry and dental public health & hygiene, UCSF, presents "Dental Decay: Can It Be Eradicated?" 12:10 p.m., HSW 300, Parnassus. Sponsored by Public Service programs. More information: 476-4394.

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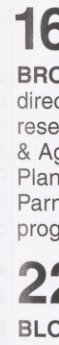

Chris T. Anderson

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12 saturday

YOUNG ARTIST RECITAL: Children of the UCSF community participate in the second UCSF Young Artist Music Recital at 12 noon in Cole Hall, Parnassus. A dessert reception will follow this event. More information: 476-5051.

Chris T. Anderson

Chiaré Hwang at last year's recital.

14 monday

SUMMER DAY CAMP: Outdoors Unlimited offers camp for kids beginning today and through Aug. 27. Two week-long, adventure-based camps for kids ages 6-12 years old. Details available at www.outdoors.ucsf.edu/ou or 476-1469.

15 tuesday

SUMMER EQUIPMENT SALE: Outdoors Unlimited sells Marmot sleeping bags, Sierra design tents, Osprey backpacks, Coleman stoves, Wavelength wetsuits and much more. More information: 476-2078.

BROWN BAG LECTURE: Howard Maibach, professor, dermatology, UCSF, presents "Aging and Skin," 12:10-1 p.m., UCSF/Mount Zion, Herbst Hall, second floor. Sponsored by Public Services Programs. More information: 476-4394

16 wednesday

BROWN BAG LECTURE: Jane Mahakian, director, elder care service and visiting research psychologist, Institute for Health & Aging, presents "The ABCs of Elder Planning, "12:10 p.m., HSW 300, Parnassus. Sponsored by Public Service programs. More information: 476-4394.

22 tuesday

BLOOD DRIVE: Donate blood, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Mount Zion, Hellman Conference Rm. Tasty refreshments and great raffle prizes, including Dim Sum dinner for two @ Yank Sing. Call 476-6989.

23 wednesday

BROWN BAG LECTURE: Wade S. Smith, director, UCSF Stroke Service and assistant professor, clinical neurology, department of neurology, UCSF, presents "Stroke: What You Need to Know," 12:10 p.m., HSW 300, Parnassus. Sponsored by Public Service programs. More information: 476-4394.

UCSF

University of California, San Francisco
Public Affairs
3333 California Street, Suite 103
San Francisco, CA 94143-0462
415/476-2557

A Chinese angina treatment relieved his pain without surgery or drugs.

The crushing sensation stopped him in his tracks.

But years before, in the twilight of vaudeville, the youthful Ray Hirsch had been a frenetic jitterbugger, displaying his talent in movie extravaganzas such as "Strike Up the Band" and "Babes in Arms." He dropped professional dancing after serving in World War II, when he began raising a family. Although he "settled down" for awhile in Las Vegas, he never seemed to drop his jitterbugging pace. He rose at four in the morning and worked long hours running a restaurant, "Snack's Fifth Avenue," where he developed a dangerous predilection toward barbecued ribs and other fatty delicacies.

His bad nutritional habits and taxing pace stuck with him through his most enduring career, selling ladies' lingerie and sleepwear as a traveling salesman throughout Northern and Central California and Western Nevada. His cholesterol rose to 375. Inevitably, in 1976, he had a heart attack, and six years later he had another.

Even so, two decades later, Hirsch was still hoofing his way across California, a result, he says, of switching to a healthier diet, two bypass surgeries, and drugs that helped lower his cholesterol to 200. But heart disease still threatened, and finally, a few years ago, he was weighted down by a crushing pain—angina. "It felt like someone was standing on my shoulders," he says.

Although he had already cut down on the lines of merchandise he carried, lifting the bags that remained often was agonizing. Another bypass was out — doctors told him he had no more suitable blood vessels to use. The pain caused by lack of oxygen flow to his heart threatened to end his job and his dancing days for good.

Fortunately, Hirsch was able to find relief through an old Chinese angina treatment involving neither surgery nor drugs. The treatment, introduced into the US and improved with new American technology, was being tested at UCSF as part of a national experimental trial.

The new, non-surgical treatment, called Enhanced External Counterpulsation (EECP), may be an attractive therapy to use either in combination with angioplasty or open-heart surgery, or as an alternative to these invasive procedures, according to Tony Chou, director of interventional cardiology at UCSF.

"Among patients who completed EECP therapy, episodes of angina were halved, and patients in the study also tended to use less of their nitroglycerin to treat their chest pains," Chou says. "In addition, endurance during treadmill exercise tests improved significantly," he adds. These improvements on the exercise stress test corresponded to a delay in the time it took for the heart to become oxygen-starved.

Many researchers believe that good EECP treatment outcomes are due to the growth of small blood vessels, which feed the heart additional oxygen. "They pointed to a new squiggly artery on the angiogram — it looked something like Lombard Street, you know, the most crooked street in the world," Hirsch says.

The seven-week, 35-session therapy Hirsch received experimentally now is available through UCSF Stanford Health Care.

During EECP treatment, a patient lies on a padded table. Clinicians wrap pressurized cuffs, similar to the ones used to measure blood pressure, around the calves, thighs and lower buttocks.

Unlike other organs and tissues, which receive oxygen when the heart pumps, the heart itself gets most of the oxygen it needs during its filling phase, called diastole.

By increasing diastolic blood pressure, inflation of the EECP pressure cuffs increases blood flow, supplying more oxygen to the coronary arteries that feed the heart.

Conversely, when the heart pumps, the cuffs deflate instantaneously, momentarily reducing blood pressure and lessening the heart's workload as it delivers oxygenated blood throughout the body.

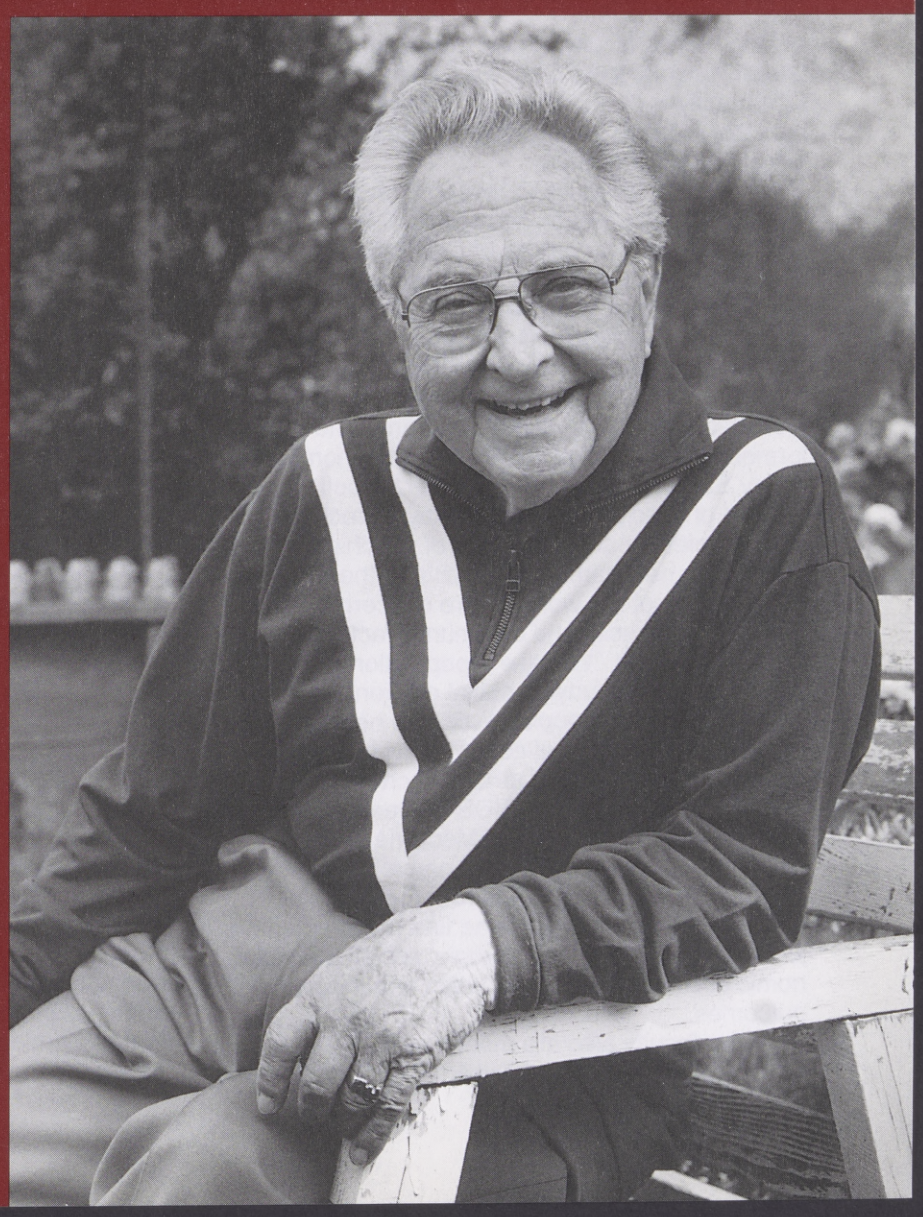
"Most patients are quite comfortable during treatment," Chou says. "Many read, listen to music or watch television, and some even fall asleep." Some patients experience discomfort in the lower legs, but rarely to a degree requiring cessation of treatment, he says.

Having gained more control over his angina, Hirsch, at 78, is still selling. While salesmanship seems like a natural for the energetic and engaging septuagenarian, he also finds plenty of time to exercise his gregariousness closer to his San Rafael home, with friends and family, and through volunteer service.

Hirsch is the entertainment chairman of a local support group made up of heart disease patients. He also is a long-time Saint Bernard lover, though he now owns just one show dog, and he is active in the Marin County Dog Training Club. He can still run around the ring and obedience train. And if he feels like it, he just might show you his jitterbug steps.

—Jeffrey Norris

For more information on EECP treatment, call Sue Spence, program coordinator, or cardiologist Andy Michaels at 476-1722.



Tom Wachs

To Our Neighbors
May–June 1999

UCSF begins preliminary work at Mission Bay campus

Treatment saves lives of patients with lung disease

UCSF opens new child care center at Laurel Heights

UCSF
University of California, San Francisco
3333 California Street, Suite 103, San Francisco, CA 94143-0462

To Our Neighbors

Center unites scholars for community health

Uniting half its faculty at new headquarters at Laurel Heights, the Center for Health and Community is now better able to take multidisciplinary approaches to maximize the health and well being of the community.

Whether it's conducting research on managed care to protect patients, helping health care professionals evaluate outcomes of their care or teaching students to appreciate the non-biologic aspects of health and illness, the center works to understand the problems of health, illness and health care.

Drawing faculty from areas of epidemiology, health policy, anthropology, psychology, sociology, history, bioethics and clinical research, the center formerly called Center for Social, Behavioral, and Policy Sciences changed its name for both practical and philosophical reasons, says director Nancy Adler, professor and vice chair of psychiatry.

First, the new name is indicative of the ultimate beneficiaries of the work. "We're concerned about the impact of social and community factors on health," she says. "We take a population-based approach: we're studying social environments and how these impact people's lives and health."

Second, the name reflects a vision to create a "community of scholars" among such distinct groups as the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies, Osher Center for Integrative Medicine and the Institute for Health & Aging, to name just a few.

With a $10.5 million grant from the National Institutes of Health, one of the first coordinated projects is studying the psychologic, social, and economic costs of in vitro fertilization and the medical outcomes.

Center faculty also are meeting with the San Francisco Department of Public Health to plan prevention-oriented research. Other research endeavors will address social inequities and health and addiction and substance abuse.

"We have a number of exciting plans for the upcoming year," Adler says. "New ideas for workgroups are being proposed and events to share our knowledge with both the campus and community are being planned."

UCSF combines efforts to treat incontinence

By combining the UCSF Stanford Health Care Women's Continence Center and the UCSF department of urology, UCSF has become one of the few institutions in the country to tackle incontinence from a multidisciplinary perspective.

"The goal for both of our departments is to make a cohesive program where there is an easy flow of information and research leading to creative and effective treatment," says Jeanette Brown, MD, director of the Women's Continence Center at UCSF/Mount Zion and UCSF associate professor of obstetrics, gynecology & reproductive sciences.

Urinary incontinence, the involuntary loss of urine, is a silent epidemic that affects about 10 to 15 million American adults.

Established in 1991, the Women's Continence Center treats women with bladder problems and offers extensive evaluations, the latest in diagnostic equipment, and a variety of treatment options for patients. The UCSF department of urology has a long-standing research commitment to the field of neurourology and houses a state-of-the-art testing center for voiding dysfunctions.

UCSF offers tours of Mission Bay

UCSF will offer monthly tours of Mission Bay beginning on Thursday, May 20.

Tours, to begin and end at the UCSF library, will be offered at noon every third Thursday of the month.

Tour participants will view the area where UCSF will break ground in October for the first research building at the 43-acre campus and will stop at the Catellus Mission Bay Visitor's Center, located at 255 Channel St., where they will see plans for the revitalization of the entire 303-acre neighborhood.

Interested participants must call public service programs, a division of the department of public affairs, at 476-4394 at least a week in advance to reserve a spot.

Tours of UCSF's main campus on Parnassus Avenue also are available upon request and with a reservation.

Medical marijuana study seeks patients with HIV

The UCSF clinical trial on the effects of marijuana in patients with HIV infection is in need of more participants for a 25-day inpatient study at San Francisco General Hospital Medical Center.

The two-year study, which is supported by a $1 million grant from the National Institutes of Health, examines the influence of marijuana on the immune system and on the amount of virus in the body, as well as on its potential interactions with antiviral drugs such as protease inhibitors.

To be eligible for the study, patients must already be undergoing treatment with inhibitors for HIV infection. Participants will be paid $1,000 for completing the study. For more information, call 502-5705.

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